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THE SAGA OF JOHNNY BLAZE: Once, not so long ago, he was the pawn of Satan. He has since been freed. But, for reasons he cannot yet comprehend, he still possesses Satan-spawned strength and the searing touch of hell fire. Whether these supernatural powers are a blessing or a curse, he does not know. Yet.

STAN LEE PRESENTS: THE GHOST RIDER! ™

ROGER McKENZIE & DON PERLIN / SCRIPTER--CO-PLOTTERS--ARTIST | JIM NOVAK / LETTERER | BOB SHAREN / COLORIST | ROGER STERN / EDITOR | JIM SHOOTER / ED-IN-CHIEF

IT WAS A HELL-SPAWNED CRAVING FOR VENGEANCE THAT PUSHED THE DEMONIC GHOST RIDER ABOARD THIS ANE-SOME LAND-ROVER... AND INTO A DEADLY TRAP.* NOW IT IS CONFUSION THAT PULLS A WEARY, PAIN-WRACKED JOHNNY BLAZE TO CONSCIOUSNESS.
THAT, AND THE COLD, INHUMAN VOICE OF... A CHILD!
YOU ARE MINE, BLAZE! BOTH YOU AND THE OLD MAN YOU SOUGHT TO SAVE! AND JUST LIKE ALL THE OTHERS BEFORE YOU, YOU WILL NEVER LEAVE THIS PLACE!
NOT EVEN IN DEATH! RIGHT, FATHER 'DEAR'?
YES... SON... WE ARE ALL PRISONERS HERE...
THE BOY WHO LIVED FOREVER!
*LAST ISSUE--ROG.

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THERE IS NO ESCAPE FROM THE SUFFERING. FROM THE HORROR THAT IS... MY SON!
I HAD HOPE ONCE. HOPE THINGS COULD BE... DIFFERENT. BUT THAT WAS SO VERY LONG AGO. NOW I HAVE--
OH, NO!
NOW YOU HAVE NOTHING, FATHER, EXCEPT THAT WHICH I CHOOSE TO GIVE YOU!
YOU HATE ME FOR THAT, DON'T YOU? AND YOU HATE MY POWER... YOU HATE THAT MOST OF ALL.
BUT THEN, YOUR HATRED OF ME HAS NEVER BEEN MUCH OF A SECRET, HAS IT? LOOK AT ME, FATHER! DENY IT, IF YOU CAN!
N-NO SON, PLEASE! YOU CAN'T--!
OF COURSE I CAN. I CAN DO ANYTHING... EXCEPT LEAVE THIS DAMNABLE FORCE BUBBLE THAT KEEPS ME ALIVE!
BUT YOU WISH ME DEAD, DON'T YOU? VERY WELL, THEN, DRAW YOUR GUN! KILL ME, IF YOU CAN!
M-MY GOD, NO!
D-DON'T MAKE ME DO THIS, SON!
PLEASE... I... I'M SORRY!
CHUFT

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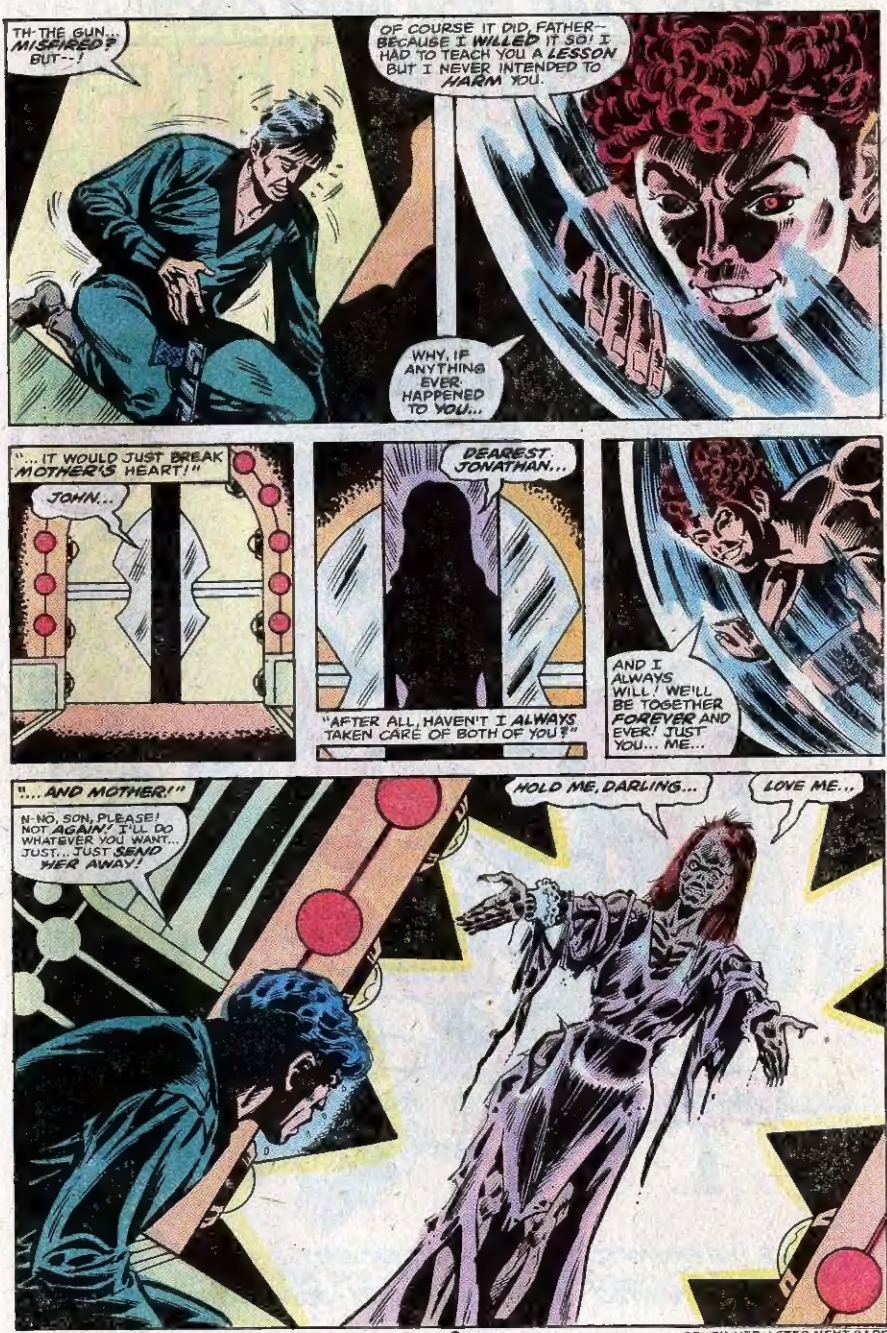
TH-THE GUN... MISFIRED? BUT--!
OF COURSE IT DID, FATHER-- BECAUSE I WILLED IT SO! I HAD TO TEACH YOU A LESSON BUT I NEVER INTENDED TO HARM YOU.
WHY, IF ANYTHING EVER HAPPENED TO YOU...
"... IT WOULD JUST BREAK MOTHER'S HEART!"
JOHN...
DEAREST JONATHAN...
"AFTER ALL, HAVEN'T I ALWAYS TAKEN CARE OF BOTH OF YOU?"
AND I ALWAYS WILL! WE'LL BE TOGETHER FOREVER AND EVER! JUST YOU... ME...
"... AND MOTHER!"
N-NO, SON, PLEASE! NOT AGAIN! I'LL DO WHATEVER YOU WANT... JUST... JUST SEND HER AWAY!
HOLD ME, DARLING...
LOVE ME...

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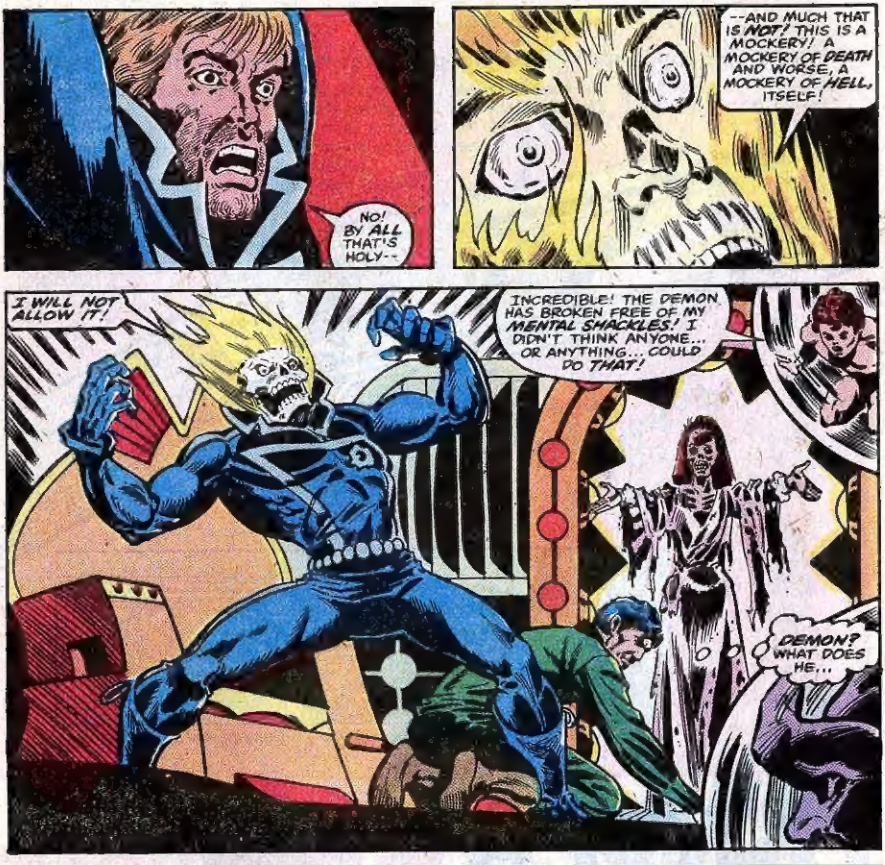
NO! BY ALL THAT'S HOLY--
--AND MUCH THAT IS NOT! THIS IS A MOCKERY! A MOCKERY OF DEATH AND WORSE, A MOCKERY OF HELL, ITSELF!
I WILL NOT ALLOW IT!
INCREDIBLE! THE DEMON HAS BROKEN FREE OF MY MENTAL SHACKLES! I DIDN'T THINK ANYONE... OR ANYTHING... COULD DO THAT!
DEMON? WHAT DOES HE...
ENRAGED BEYOND WORDS, GHOST RIDER BOILS WITH HELLISH FURY, AND THOUGH SOUL-BUSTERING HELLFIRE SPEWS FROM SKELETAL FINGERTIPS...
...THE CHAMBER GROWS SUDDENLY DARKER... SOMEHOW, STRANGELY COLDER.
BUT DARKNESS MEANS LITTLE TO A CREATURE NO LONGER TRULY ALIVE... ONE THAT HAS SURELY SHAMBLED FROM THE ETERNAL COLDNESS OF ITS OWN CRYPT!
I BURNED ONCE, DEMON...I DO NOT FEAR YOUR FLAMES NOW!

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THEN YOU ARE A FOOL, MONSTER! YOU MAY BE A THING FROM THE GRAVE, BUT I AM A THING FROM HELL...
... AND I WILL NOT BE DENIED!
NO! PUT HER DOWN!
WHAT SORT OF MAN IS JOHNNY BLAZE? OR... IS HE A MAN AT ALL?
KATHRAKK
MOTHER!
YOU CAN'T HURT ME, DEMON!
BUT YOU HURT MOTHER...
...AND YOU'LL PAY FOR THAT!

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CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

BEHOLD THE MARVEL GALAXY OF SUPER STARS!
THE MAN CALLED NOVA
CAPTAIN MARVEL
ALL AT YOUR NEWSSTAND NOT VERY FAR, FAR, AWAY!
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NO I WILL NOT BE DENIED!
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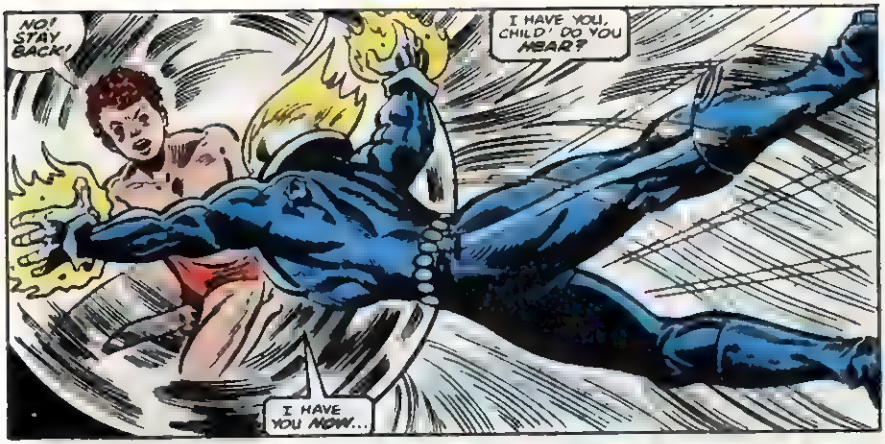
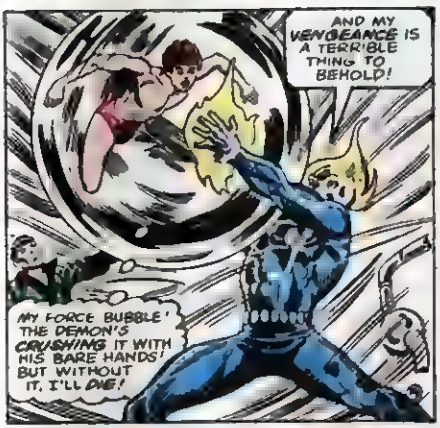
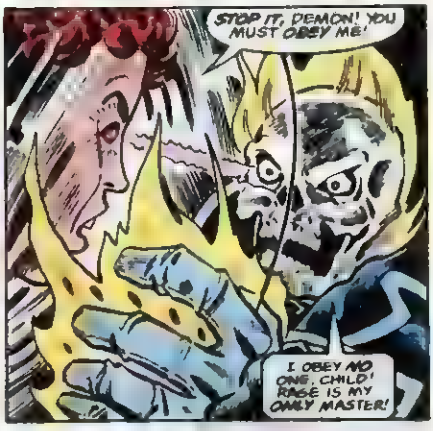
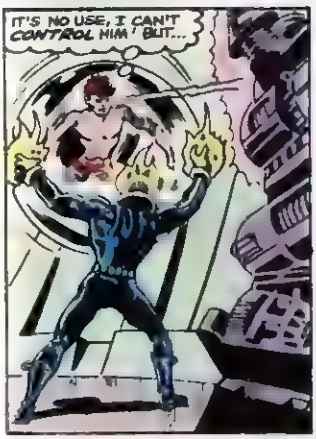
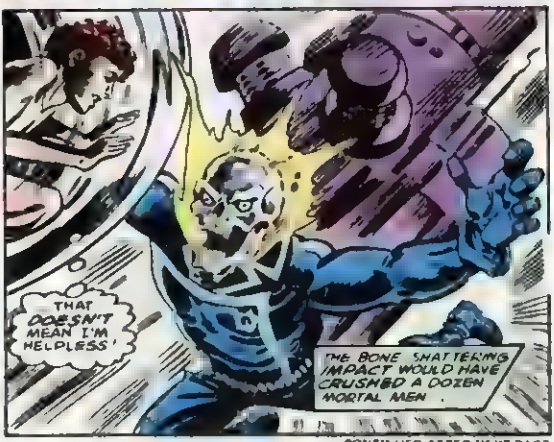



AND MY VENGEANCE IS A TERRIBLE THING TO BEHOLD!
MY FORCE BUBBLE! THE DEMON'S CRUSHING IT WITH HIS BARE HANDS! BUT WITHOUT IT, I'LL DIE!







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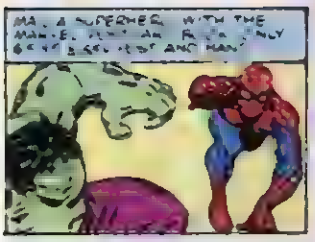

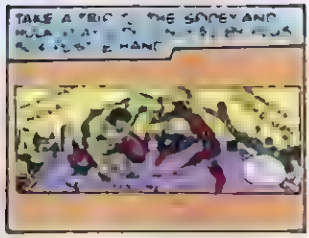

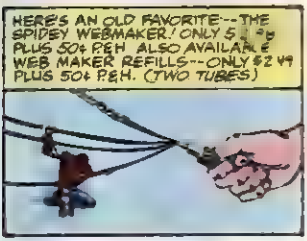

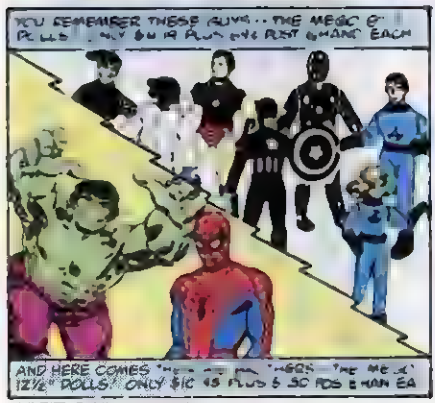

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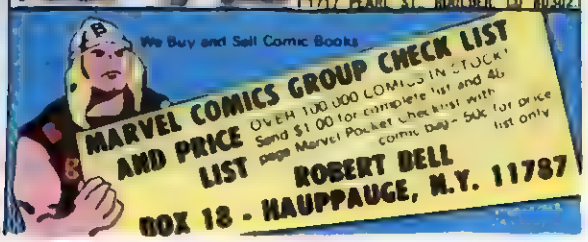
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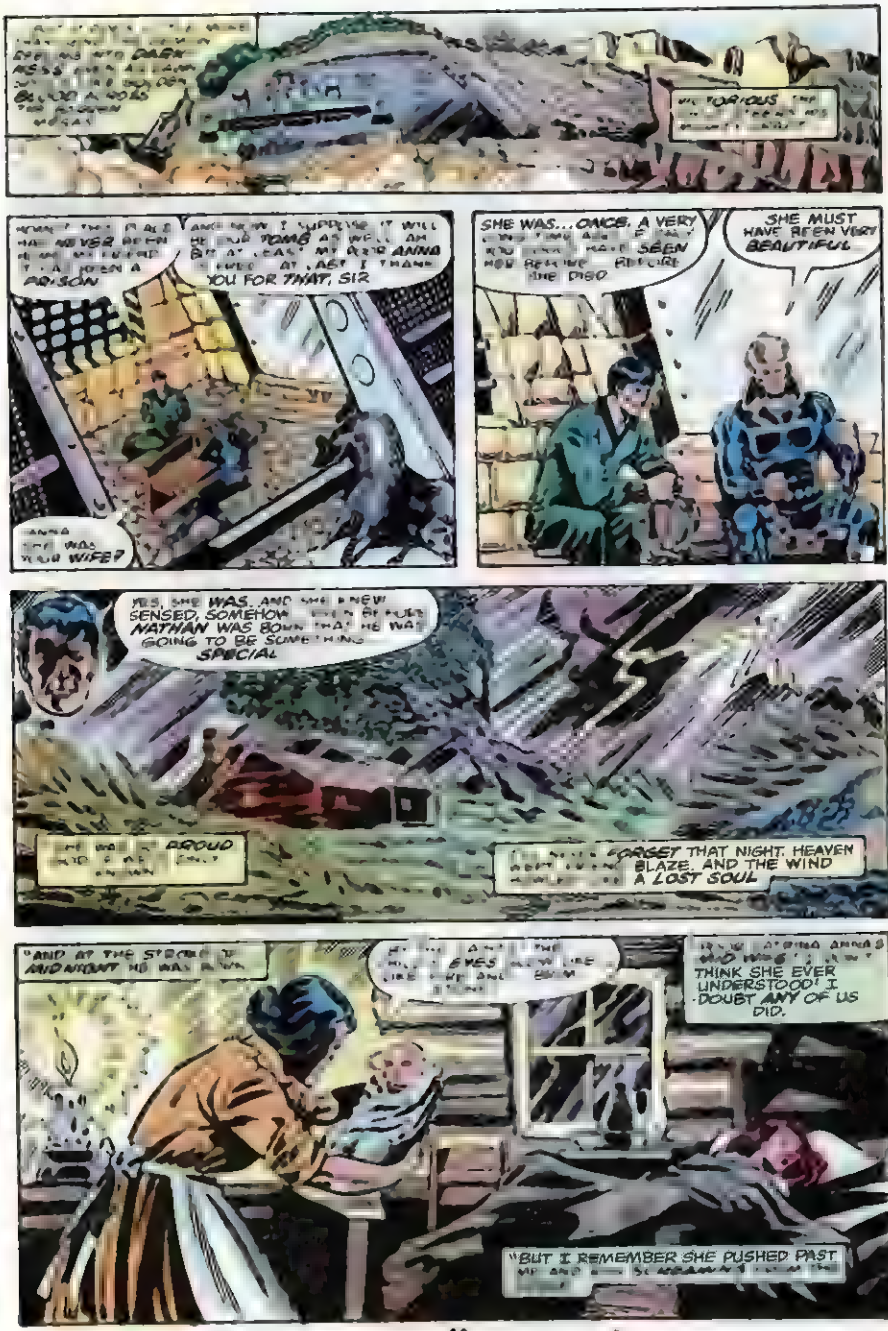

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"AND SHORTLY BEFORE DAWN THE VILLAGERS CAME FOR US THEY WERE SCREAMING AS WELL"
THERE, FRIENDS! THAT IS THE HOUSE OF THE WITCH!
HURRY, BROTHERS! WE'VE THE LORD'S WORK TO DO THIS NIGHT.
"THEY HAD BEEN MY FRIENDS BLAZE. BUT THAT NIGHT BEFORE MY EYES THEY BECAME AN UNRULY, RIGHTEOUS MOB!"
GIVE UNTO US THE WITCH, JONATHAN BEAME! AYE, AND HER DEMONIC OFF-SPRING!
NO! STAY BACK! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING!
WE KNOW ALL TOO WELL THE WAYS OF THE DEVIL, BEAME! AND WE KNOW WHAT WE MUST DO!
"I TRIED TO STOP THEM, BUT"
WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING? I DON'T AGREE! WHAT DO YOU WANT?
WE WANT YOU, WITCH, AND WE WANT THE SATAN CHILD!
OH MY POOR BELOVED ANNA! WHAT THEY DID TO HER, BLAZE. WHAT THEY DID TO HER!"
THE WITCH IS DEAD... NOW FOR THE LITTLE MONSTER!
EVEN THEN, INSTINCTIVELY, HE FELT THEIR FEAR AND HATRED OF HIM AND HE USED IT TWISTED IT BACK AGAINST THEM!

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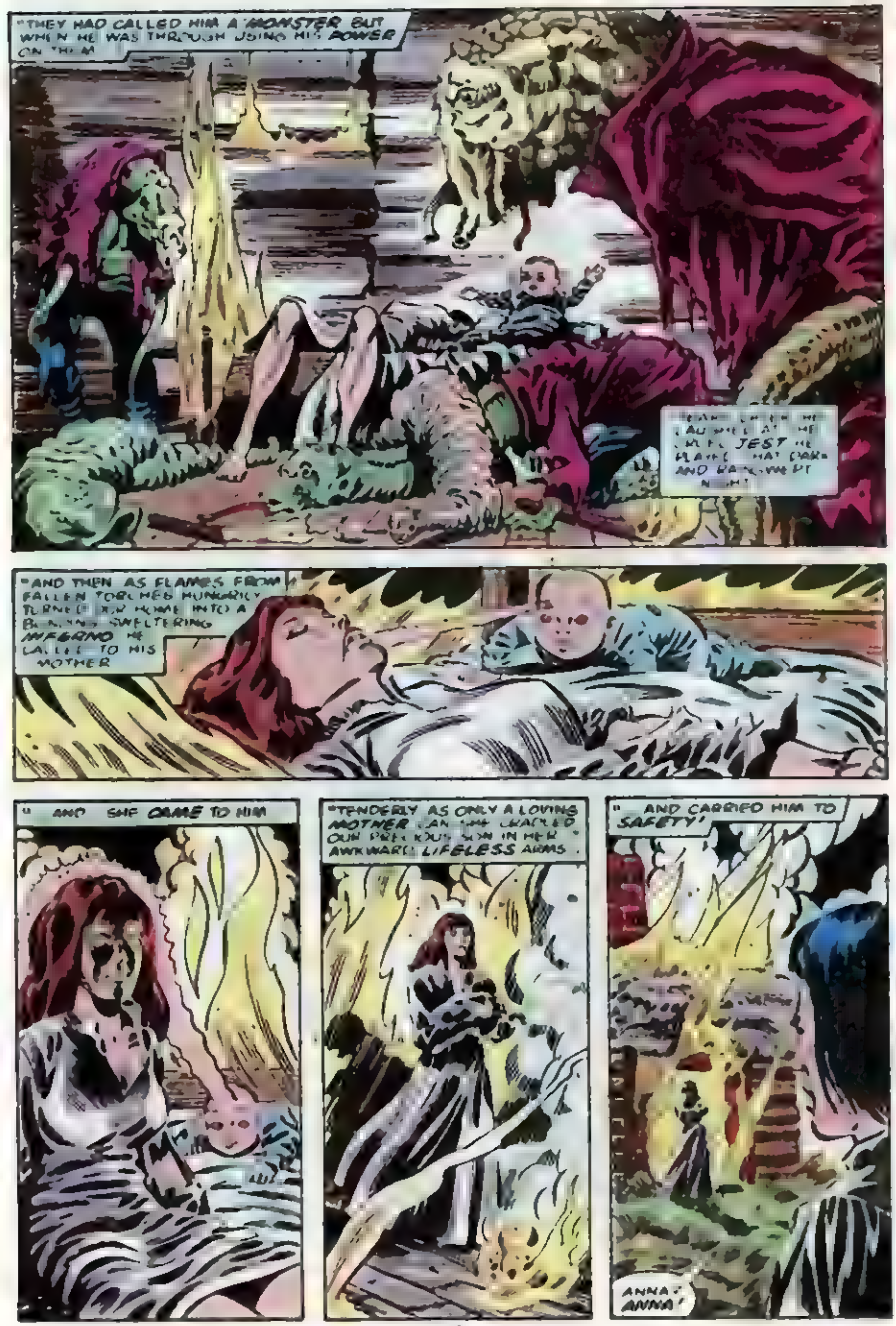
"THEY HAD CALLED HIM A MONSTER BUT WHEN HE WAS THROUGH USING HIS POWER ON THEM
"AND THEN AS FLAMES FROM FALLEN TORCHES HUNGRILY TURNED HIS HOME INTO A BLAZING SWELTERING INFERNO HE CALLED TO HIS MOTHER
" AND SHE CAME TO HIM
"TENDERLY AS ONLY A LOVING MOTHER CAN SHE GATHERED OUR FELLOW MAN IN HER AWKWARD LIFELESS ARMS .
" AND CARRIED HIM TO SAFETY '
ANNA ! ANNA !

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"AFTER THAT THE YEARS CRAWLED BY ONE AFTER ANOTHER UNTIL AT LAST I NO LONGER KNEW HOW TO COUNT THEM
NATHAN REFUSED TO LET ME KNOW WHERE HE PREFERRED TO BE. I WAS, AND DID WHAT I WANNA.
I WANDERED FAR AND WIDE IN THAT HOPE, INVITATION AND EVENTUALLY WE
"JUST THE THREE OF US.
"THERE WAS NO ESCAPING WHAT HE HAD BECOME.
"FOR ALTHOUGH HIS MINDS HELD POWER BEYOND MOST MEN'S, HIS BODY GREW STEADILY WEAKER AND MORE FRAIL.
EVENTUALLY HE WAS FORCED TO CONFINE HIMSELF IN A CONTRIVANCE OF HIS OWN DESIGN. SAFELY SHIELDED FROM THE MUTATED HE ALREADY HAD BECOME, BUT STILL HE WAS TRAPPED IN A PRISON FROM WHICH HE COULD NEVER ESCAPE
"IN TIME, WE CAME TO THIS PLACE NATHAN HAD BUILT IT... CALLED IT HIS WORK.
"AND HE STRUGGLED WITH THE CYBERNETIC MORTAR THAT HELD AND THE OLD MAN, WOODY, FOUGHT EARLIER BLAZE.
IT WAS THIS AS HIS WORLD AND HE BUILT IT AN INVINCIBLE MAN WILLED DICTATOR REALIZED HIS EXISTENCE A SECRET EVEN FROM THOSE WHO MIGHT HAVE HELPED HIM

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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AND NOW, CAUSE WE'RE FOOLISH AND BIG-HEARTED--
THE NIFTIEST, CUDDLIEST OFFER THIS SIDE OF AN INVITE TO DR. DOOM'S SURPRISE BIRTHDAY PARTY!

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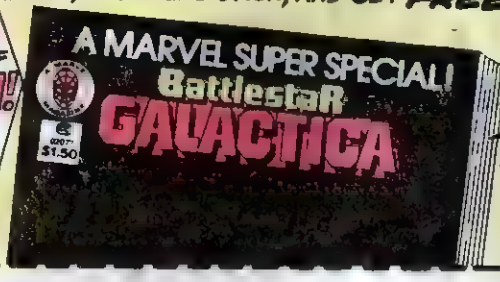

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GHOST WRITERS!

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ROGER STERN
EDITOR
JIM SALICRUP
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Roger, Don, and Roger.

One flaw of the GHOST RIDER comic in general is its lack of any thematic constant. Johnny Blaze bops around from adventure to adventure, yet seems rather disorganized.

The remedy is not necessarily a regular supporting cast—that can only be determined by your own creative drives and instincts. I speak instead of other issues.

Many superheroes are located generally in one specific area or city. Ghost Rider, though, is (and I hope remains) a biker on the road. Yet this brings up the problem of how to work in a reasonable flow from one story to another, and through his life in general.

Consider, for instance, Howard the Duck. (Bear with me, this does make sense.) True, it is an unlikely comparison, but Howard—like Johnny—is seldom in one place for very long. Even so, Howard maintains thematic consistencies, i.e. his alienation from normal/abnormal society, his own particular warped/wise vision of life and society, and so forth.

I do want to congratulate you all on the very impressive strengthening of the Ghost Rider's demonic presence. This is definitely a move in the right direction, and it at least partly addresses the problem I've been talking about. If the demonic side of Johnny Blaze and the threat that the Ghost Rider presents to Johnny's soul are to make up the theme of GHOST RIDER, then let this theme underlie all of Johnny's adventures. Let's see the big problems of Blaze's life become the foundations of the series.

The growth of the GHOST RIDER comic so far has been rapid, impressive, and gratifying. And Don Perlin's stunning artwork is surely a great part of this success.

Oh, and by the way, I see nothing wrong with an occasional team-up now and then. . just as long as it doesn't happen every issue. The team-up books that now exist don't really allow for stories like the Ghost Rider/Doctor Strange saga. So by all means, don't rule such team ups out.

And go monthly!

Rob Fagerlund
1012 Homewild
Jackson, MI 49201

Monthly, Robert? Well. . .we shall see.

But getting back to the crux of your missive, you bring up a very basic matter. . . of theme and flow. . .that is important to any vital comic. The trick, of course, is to develop the theme of GHOST RIDER so that it has an identifiable *status quo*, while still allowing room for growth and avoiding cliché.

That, of course, is where you come in. In upcoming issues, we are going to be delving very deeply into the human side of Johnny Blaze. . .who he is. . .what makes him tick. And now, more than ever, we need to hear your response. Tell us what you think of the ever-unwinding story of Johnny Blaze. . .okay?

Dear Roger and Don,

One thing about scripting a series like GHOST RIDER is that you become so close to the book that things like cosmic motor cycles actually seem like a good idea. What you have to do, of course, is step back for a second and take an objective look at the thing. . .and realize that cosmic motorcycles are an absolutely ridiculous idea, a very silly thing that you'd only see in a comic about motorcycles. That, and the obvious *Close Encounters* take off on the cover, were the sore points about this month's script.

But, with the exception of those, the story this time around was wonderful. The character of Woody could have come off as terrifically lame and corny, but instead he was a remarkably real person with some real warmth to him. It's very rare in comics to see an old man with super powers, and Woody was a welcome exception.

Then, too, that mysterious boy at the end seemed terribly ominous and terrifying. He and his ship and the cyborg cyclers seemed a lot scarier with the build-up Woody gave them.

But my highest praise this issue goes to Don Perlin, who finally got a chance to ink himself! Huzzah, huzzah! His "mother ship" was excellent, he truly captured the personality of Woody Guthers, and his depiction of everything from the demolishing of the town to that final full-page splash was impressive. Keep this man working!

My biggest complaint about this issue was the letter column. Marvel should have a policy against publishing letters from the same people twice in a row. I mean, this Beppe Sabatini guy has monopolized the letters page of GHOST RIDER for two issues now! Come on! Give some other letter writers a chance! This Sabatini just wants to see his name in print! Beppe Sabatini. . . Beppe Sabatini. . .I'm sick of it!

Beppe Sabatini
129 Gunson Street
East Lansing, MI 48823

You've definitely got a point there, Bep. . .uh, fella.

Well, howabout it, Ghost Readers? Shall we let this East Lansing letterhack dominate the pages? Should we relegate his epistles to the feature pages of KID COLT OUTLAW? And how many trolls can dance on the beards of three billy goats gruff anyway?

We dunno.

NEXT ISSUE: Have we got a treat for you! While Roger and Don are gearing up for the beginning of one of the heaviest Ghost Rides of all, our old buddies Jim Starlin and Steve Leialoha join forces to bring you a fear-fraught moment out of Johnny Blaze's past. So be here as the Ghost Rider enters into the most macabre motocross race ever. . against Death himself! This is a story you're going to be talking about for years to come, so don't miss it! It's coming your way in GHOST RIDER #36, just sixty days away. Reserve your copy now!

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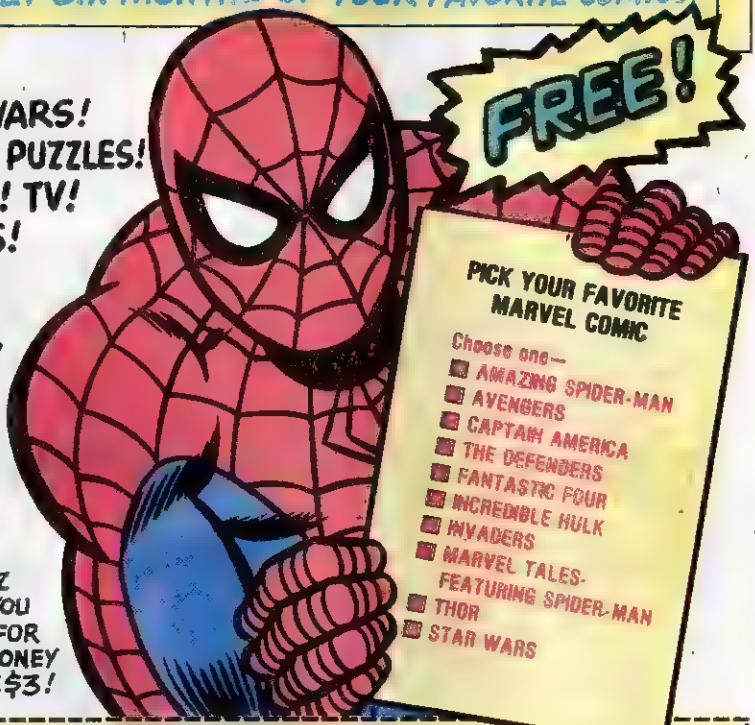

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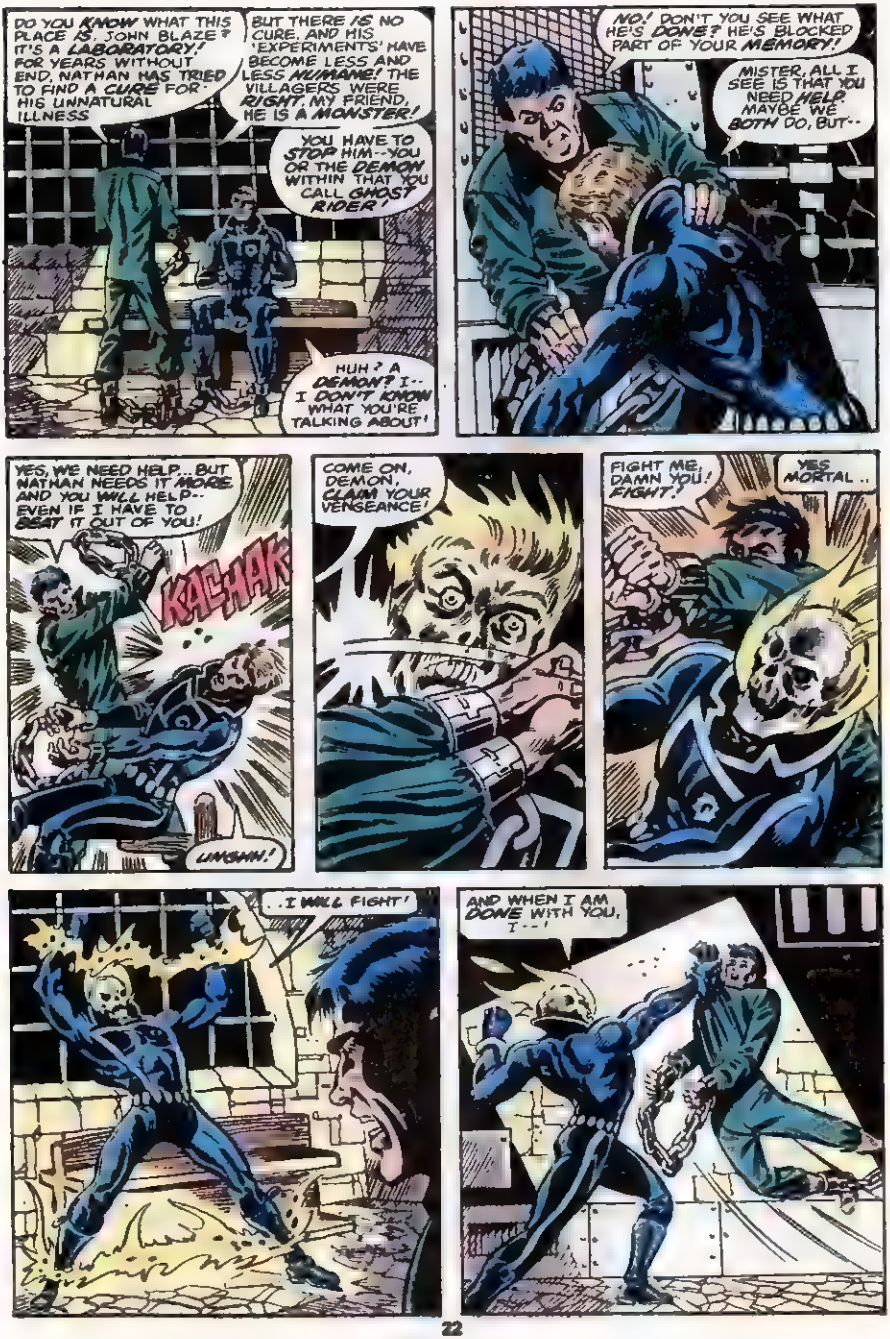
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS PLACE IS, JOHN BLAZE? IT'S A LABORATORY! FOR YEARS WITHOUT END, NATHAN HAS TRIED TO FIND A CURE FOR HIS UNNATURAL ILLNESS
BUT THERE IS NO CURE, AND HIS 'EXPERIMENTS' HAVE BECOME LESS AND LESS HUMANE! THE VILLAGERS WERE RIGHT, MY FRIEND, HE IS A MONSTER!
YOU HAVE TO STOP HIM--YOU OR THE DEMON WITHIN THAT YOU CALL GHOST RIDER!
HUH? A DEMON? I-- I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!
NO! DON'T YOU SEE WHAT HE'S DONE? HE'S BLOCKED PART OF YOUR MEMORY!!
MISTER, ALL I SEE IS THAT YOU NEED HELP. MAYBE WE BOTH DO, BUT--
YES, WE NEED HELP.. BUT NATHAN NEEDS IT MORE. AND YOU WILL HELP-- EVEN IF I HAVE TO BEAT IT OUT OF YOU!
KA-CHAK
UMGHH!
COME ON, DEMON. CLAIM YOUR VENGEANCE!
FIGHT ME, DAMN YOU! FIGHT!
YES MORTAL..
..I WILL FIGHT!
AND WHEN I AM DONE WITH YOU, I--!

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NO! NOT YOU! I WANT THE CHILD!
I'VE REAWAKENED THE DEMON! I ONLY HOPE, SOMEDAY HE CAN FIND IT IN HIS HELL SINGED SOUL TO FORGIVE ME!
YOU MEAN NOTHING TO ME, MORTAL! I FREE YOU SIMPLY TO GET YOU OUT OF THE WAY!
NOW HOLD STILL!
AND HERE, MORTAL, IS A PATH TO SAFETY. GO AND DO NOT RETURN.
FOR THIS NIGHT THERE WILL BE HELL TO PAY!
BEFORE HIM, THE GHOST RIDER HURLS A MIGHTY BOLT OF HELLFIRE - AND FROM WITHIN ITS BLAZING CORE AN eERIE FLAME CYCLE CRACKLES WITH A FEW PREMATURE LIFE OF ITS OWN
AND DEEP IN ANY DEMON MACHINE SUDDENLY RACE DOWN GLEEMING CORRIDORS IN ABSOLUTE DEAD SILENCE.
FAREWELL, JOHN BLAZE, AND MAY GOD HAVE MERCY.
BUT MERCY IS THE LAST THING ON THE DARK AND SEETHING MIND OF GHOST RIDER AS HE TEARS THROUGH THE SPRAWLING UNDERHOUSE COMPLEX
OVER SEARCHING FOR AN AGELESS CHILD AND AN AGELESS RELENTLESS RETRIBUTION
BUT HE FINDS, INSTEAD
BY THE DARK LORD! IT CAN NOT BE!

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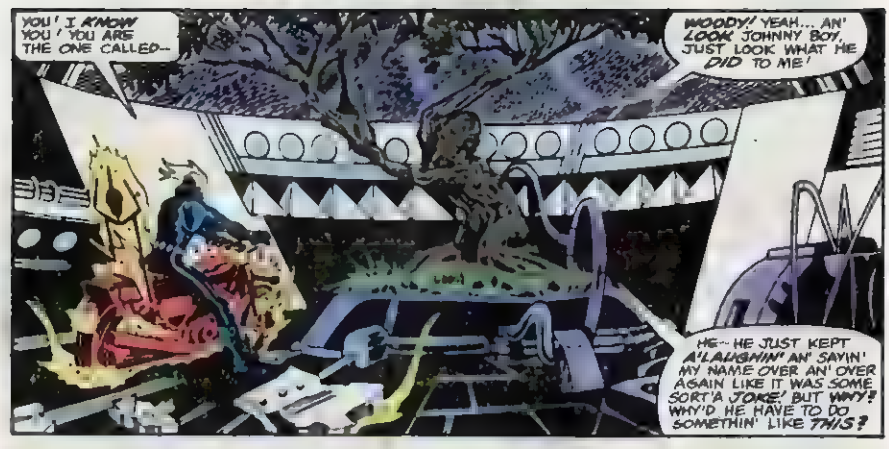
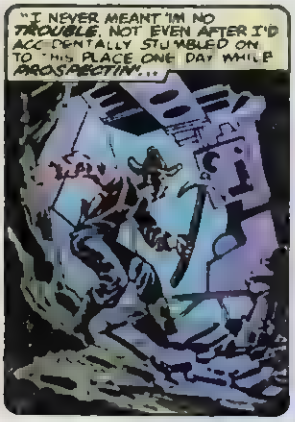
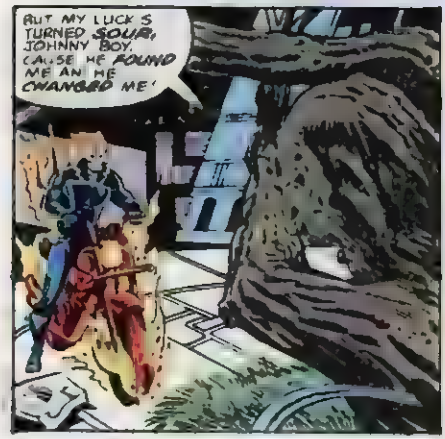

YOU! I KNOW YOU! YOU ARE THE ONE CALLED--
WOODY! YEAH... AN' LOOK JOHNNY BOY, JUST LOOK WHAT HE DID TO ME!
HE-- HE JUST KEPT A'LAUGHIN' AN' SAYIN' MY NAME OVER AN' OVER AGAIN LIKE IT WAS SOME SORT'A JOKE! BUT WHY? WHY'D HE HAVE TO DO SOMETHIN' LIKE THIS?



"I RECKON IT WAS THAT WHAT GAVE ME SOME A HIS POWER. HE SHORE WAS ANGRY WHEN HE FOUND OUT WHAT HAD HAPPENED. I WAS LUCKY TO GET AWAY."



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BY HADES I BEAR YOU NO MALICE HUMAN, BUT MY PATIENCE IS A FLEETING THING! I WARN YOU ONCE AND ONLY ONCE UNHAND ME!
HUMAN?! I'M ANYTHING BUT THAT NOW! I'D RATHER DIE THAN LIVE LIKE THIS!
USE THEM FLAMES A'YOURS AGAIN, JOHNNY BOY, AND--
--END IT, DEMON! I'D LIKE TO WATCH YOU BOTH DIE THIS DAY!
YOU! YES I WILL USE THE HELLFIRE BUT IT IS YOU WHO SHALL FEEL IT!
I FEEL NOTHING EXCEPT POWER! YOUR FLAMES WILL NEVER REACH ME, DEMON! I WILL NOT ALLOW IT!
POWER? IS THAT ALL YOU RESPECT, BOY? WELL, OL' WOODY HAS POWER, TOO! MEBBE NOT ENOUGH TO CHANGE WHAT I'VE BECOME, BUT I USED IT TO FIND GOLD ONCE!..
#LAST ISH--ROG
...AND I CAN FIND OTHER THINGS... LIKE OIL!
NOW, JOHNNY BOY, USE THAT FLAME!
WHAT--? NO!
YOU CAN'T--!
GHOST RIDER NODS GRIMLY A MACABRE SMILE ETCHING HIS FIERY SKULLISH COUNTENANCE AND WHATEVER ELSE THE EVIL CHILD MIGHT HAVE SAID

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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BULLPEN BULLETINS

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Okay, here it is. For once I remembered what I promised to write about last issue! Here's where you get a serious opinion as to the real difference in editorial approach between our competitors and Marvel. There have been more letters asking me to discuss this subject than any other (and I'd hate to find out that they're all from the competish 'cause they wanna know how we do it!)

Basically, it seems to me that we write about people while they write about things. We're concerned with the psychological problems and urges that motivate our characters, while the other company prefers to dwell on what happened, how did it happen, and how do we catch the bad guy? Perhaps another way of saying it is, we write for the older reader, for those who are interested in true-to-life dialogue, in absorbing sub-plots and secondary story lines, and in provocative, imaginative themes to boggle the mind. We like to flavor our yarns with satire, with offbeat philosophical concepts, and with controversial subjects. On the other hand, our competitors' mags are aimed at a younger market, which is the reason their stories are generally simpler and more basic in approach.

Now then, I don't mean to sound smug and self-satisfied. I've been telling you the type of stories we aim for, but I'm not claiming a bullseye each time around. As all true believers know, we've certainly come up with our own share of clinkers, of stories that could have been and should have been better. But when we manage to get our act together, we sure come up with some winners!

And now I'll turn you loose while I start to research next month's column. As previously promised, I'm gonna give you the top-secret lowdown on the monumental mystery behind Honest Irving Forbush! Is he man or myth? Is he talent or turkey? Is he bigger than a breadbox? All this and more shall be fearlessly revealed when we meet again next issue! Till then, remember—audentes fortuna juvat!

Excelsior!

Stan

ITEM! It was one of those days—a desperately-late SPIDER-WOMAN cover was lost, the stat machine was broken, the water pipes were frozen (in August, yet!) and the paychecks were late. In fact, things were so bad that editor ROGER (*Stemo*) STERN was seen standing on the 6th story window ledge, reading his last will and testament aloud. Just after he had bequeathed away his INCREDIBLE HULK t-shirt to assistant editor *Masterful* MARK GRUENWALD, the news came that once again, Mighty MARVEL COMICS had captured the lion's share of the prestigious EAGLE AWARDS, British fandom's highest honor. Among the winners were X-MEN, for best team *and* favorite dramatic series; SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN, for favorite Black-and-White magazine; HOWARD THE DUCK, for favorite humor series; JOHN CARTER, WARLORD OF MARS, for favorite new series; AVENGERS ANNUAL #7, "The Final Threat", for favorite single-issue story; and (oddly enough) that *same* story, and its *sequel* in MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE ANNUAL #2, "Death Watch", for favorite continued story. Also honored were *Timorous* TERRY AUSTIN, as favorite inker, *Thanos*, as favorite villain; *Pip the Troll*, as favorite supporting character; and *The Silver Surfer*, as character most worthy of his own feature. That delightful news perked up just about everyone around the office, *especially* Roger Stern, proud editor of both JOHN CARTER and X-MEN. Good ol' Rog stepped down off the window sill and headed for his desk, happy as a clam. Mark was somewhat disappointed, however, at not getting his promised t-shirt, but we'll all chip in and buy him one—*if* the paychecks ever come!

ITEM! A quick *welcome* actually, for newly arrived ace colorist CARL (*The Gaff*) GAFFORD and soon-to-be renowned inker *Able* AL GORDON! Check out their accomplishments in MARVEL PREMIERE #46, featuring *Man-Wolf*, and SPIDER WOMAN #11, featuring the villainy of *Brother Grimm*, and then give us the verdict—should we *keep* these guys, or feed them to the alligators?

ITEM! A couple of years back a trio of talented gentlemen named Doug Moench, Paul Gulacy, and Dan Adkins combined their skills to bring the MASTER OF KUNG FU series to a breathtaking pinnacle of achievement in comics art. When, finally, circumstances separated this award-winning team, it seemed that things would never be quite right with *Shang-Chi* again. For a while, each succeeding issue brought new problems, artist and inker changes, natural disasters, plagues of locusts, and all the accompanying schedule ills which disturb the delicate balance of yin and yang necessary to produce Timeless Masterpieces. Undaunted, however, mighty Marvel pressed on, and, at long last recruited *Miraculous* MIKE ZECK, penciler, and *Brash* BRUCE PATTERSON, inker, to join *Devil-May-Care* DOUG MOENCH, writer, as regulars on MOKF. As each new issue rolls in from these talented and dedicated gentlemen, the feeling grows among those of us at 575 Madison that we are witnessing the evolution of a series destined to rival—nay *surpass* the classics of yesteryear. We *could* try to describe the way Mike's dynamic-yet subtle penciling is complemented perfectly by Bruce's clean, bold, striking inkline, or how well the sheer lyrical *power* of the art blends with both Doug's oft-acclaimed scripting and Shang-Chi's unique personality, but we won't. Instead, we simply *defy* Marveldom Assembled to read issue #73 of MOKF, now on sale, which chronicles Shang-Chi's return to dreaded *Mordillo's Island*! You'll see!

ITEM! Gigantic Editor-in-Chief JIM SHOOTER answered the phone the other day, and who should be on the line but JOHN BELUSHI star of stage, screen and NBC's comedy hit, SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE! Ever calm under pressure, Jim smoothly said, "Hey, John, you're fine. How am I?" But Jaunty John understood anyway, and proceeded to congratulate the Marvel crew for our creative efforts on MARVEL TEAM-UP #74, which featured Mr. Belushi and the other wild and crazy members of the *Not-Ready-For-Prime Time Players* (*shame* on you if you missed it!). Later, John stopped by the hallowed halls to meet all the awestruck armadillos, especially Chris Claremont, Bob Hall, Dave Cockrum, and Marie Severin, who crafted the issue in question, and to invite us to the Opening Night party for his new movie, *Animal House*. It was an honor, a pleasure, and a night to remember for us Bullpenners. By the way, be sure to see the flick, it's the cat's pajamas!

ITEM! So many great things are happening we can't begin to cover them all, but pay attention and we'll try to zip through some of them quickly. First, be *sure* to catch SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #27 which showcases the penciling of one of the most rapidly rising stars this industry has ever seen, namely FRANK MILLER. Lanky Frank's portrayal of the web-slinger's characteristic spider-like movement as he traverses the rooftops is sure to become a *standard* for spider-artists. And wait'll you see what he does with a certain Fearless *guest-star*! After *that*, check out MS. MARVEL #22 and get in on the ground floor of what promises to be a *super* series of issues drawn by *Meticulous* MIKE VOSBURG. And, you'd be well advised to seek out current issues of both THE HULK and CAPTAIN AMERICA, between the pages of which rage the most memorable *crossover* of recent history. And as if *that* weren't enough, HOWARD THE DUCK is alive and well, and don't let anyone tell you different. Get down to your newsstand *now*, and you won't miss out! Okay? *Okay!*

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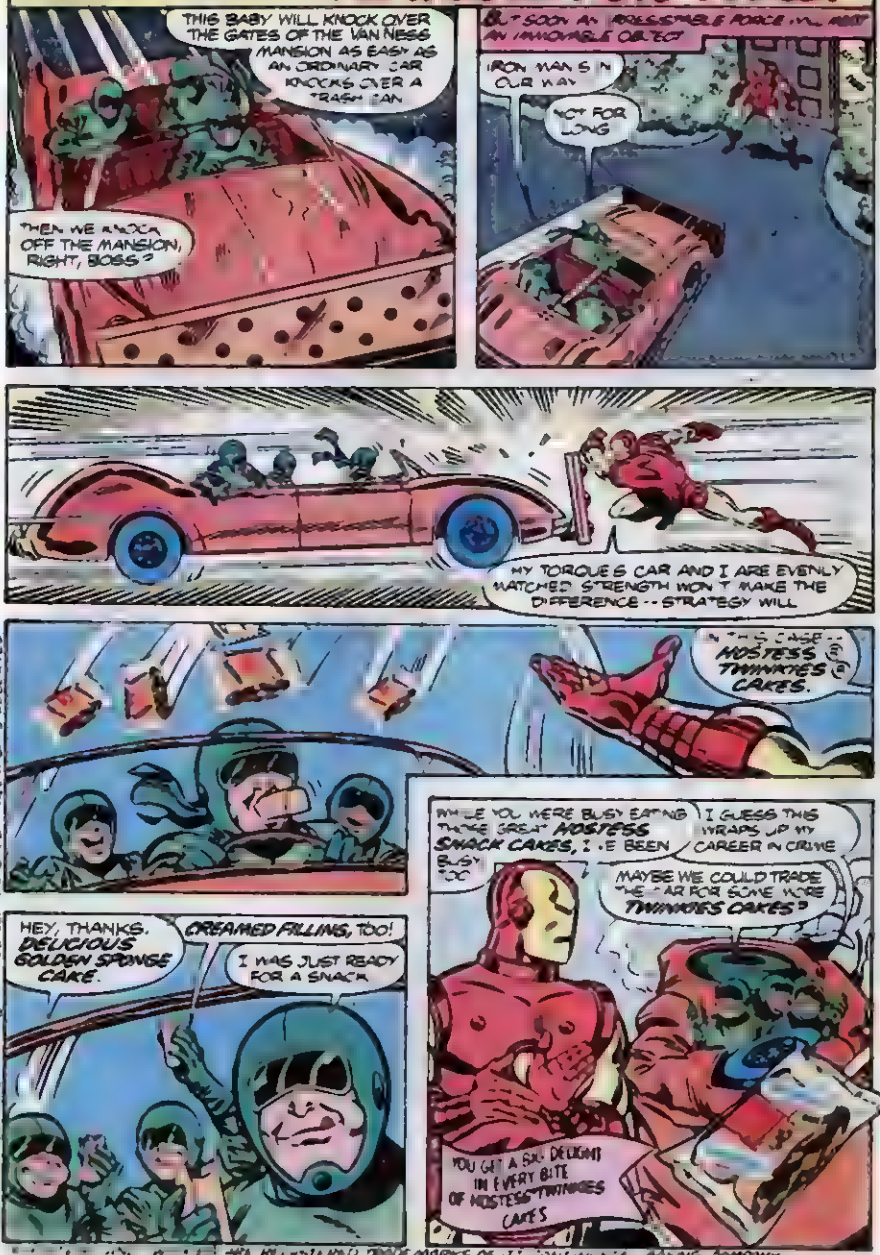
IRON MAN in AN IRRESISTIBLE FORCE!


THIS BABY WILL KNOCK OVER THE GATES OF THE VAN NESS MANSION AS EASY AS AN ORDINARY CAR KNOCKS OVER A TRASH CAN
THEN WE KNOCK OFF THE MANSION, RIGHT, BOSS?
BUT SOON AN IRRESISTIBLE FORCE WILL MEET AN IMMOVABLE OBJECT
IRON MAN'S IN OUR WAY
NOT FOR LONG
MY TORQUE'S CAR AND I ARE EVENLY MATCHED! STRENGTH WON'T MAKE THE DIFFERENCE -- STRATEGY WILL
IN THIS CASE -- HOSTESS TWINKIES CAKES.
WHILE YOU WERE BUSY EATING THOSE GREAT HOSTESS SNACK CAKES, I'VE BEEN BUSY TOO
I GUESS THIS WRAPS UP MY CAREER IN CRIME
MAYBE WE COULD TRADE THE CAR FOR SOME MORE TWINKIES CAKES?
YOU GET A SOLID DELIGHT IN EVERY BITE OF HOSTESS TWINKIES CAKES
HEY, THANKS. DELICIOUS GOLDEN SPONGE CAKE.
CREAMED FILLING, TOO!
I WAS JUST READY FOR A SNACK

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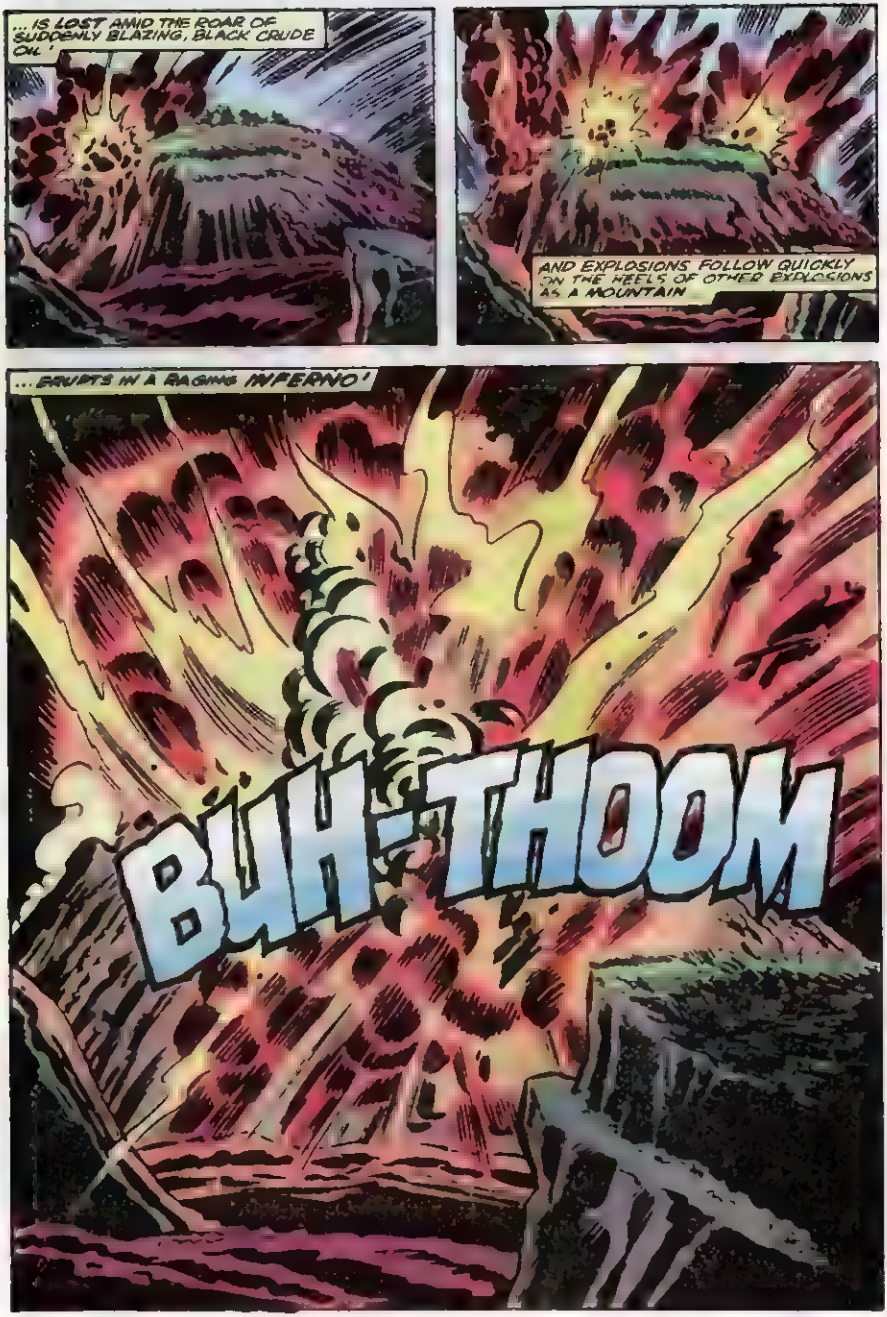
...IS LOST AMID THE ROAR OF SUDDENLY BLAZING, BLACK CRUDE OIL!
AND EXPLOSIONS FOLLOW QUICKLY ON THE HEELS OF OTHER EXPLOSIONS AS A MOUNTAIN
...ERUPTS IN A RAGING INFERNO!
BUH-THOOM

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FROM AN INFERNO SUCH AS THIS, ONLY A SPAWN OF HELL COULD EVER HOPE TO ESCAPE!
FOR HOURS HE WATCHES THE BLOOD-RED FLAMES AS IF WANTING TO EMBRACE THEM... ALONE WITH HIS DARK THOUGHTS.
PERHAPS HE THINKS OF THE OLD MAN. FOR WOODY, THE HORROR AT LAST IS OVER.
PERHAPS HE THINKS OF THE MUTANT CHILD--
...THE LITTLE MONSTER WHO BROUGHT TERROR TO EVERYTHING... AND EVERYONE... HE TOUCHED.
PERHAPS, HE THINKS OF DEATH, DEATH LONG DENIED THE CHILD'S FATHER. DEATH, WHO HAS FINALLY RUSHED TO CLAIM... AND ULTIMATELY FREE... ITS OWN.
DEATH, WHO BRINGS PEACE TO ALL...
...ALL, SAVE THE GHOST RIDER!
NEXT ISSUE:
GHOST RIDER FACES THE ULTIMATE FOE IN--
DEATHRACE!
A JIM STARLIN-STEVE LEIALOHA SUPERNATURAL SPECIAL!

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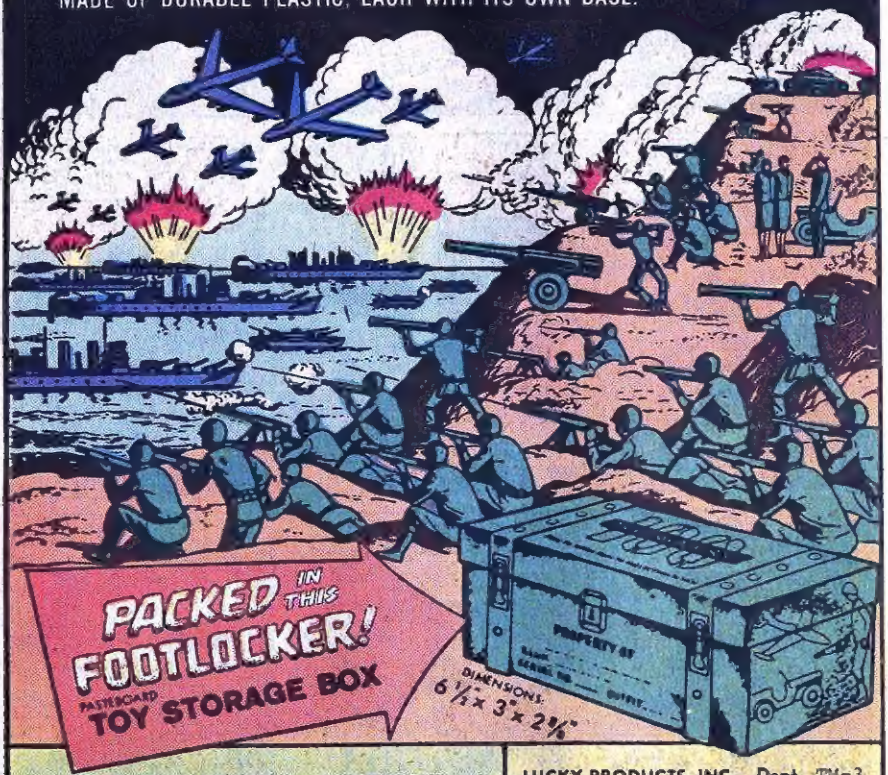

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